

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2004-316-C - ORDER NO. 2005-604
OCTOBER 17, 2005

IN RE: Petition of BellSouth Telecommunications,)	ORDER APPOINTING
Inc. to Establish Generic Docket to Consider)	HEARING OFFICER
Amendments to Interconnection Agreements)	
Resulting from Changes of Law.)	

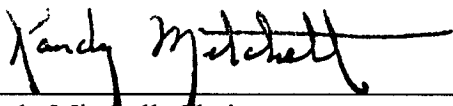
This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Commission's Motion to appoint Mr. Joseph M. Melchers, Esquire, Chief Counsel, to serve as a hearing officer in the instant docket regarding amendments to interconnection agreements resulting from changes of law. This appointment is in order that the hearing officer may dispose of procedural and evidentiary matters pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-3-40 (Supp. 2004). The Motion is granted.

Section 58-3-40(C)(1) states that upon the request of any party or any commissioner, the commission may employ a hearing officer who may hear and determine procedural motions or other matters not determinative of the merits of the proceedings. Under (C)(2), the hearing officer has full authority, subject to being overruled by the commission, to rule on questions concerning the conduct of the case and other matters. Under (C)(3), the officer must be an attorney qualified to practice in all courts of this State with a minimum of eight years' practice experience.

We find that Mr. Joseph M. Melchers meets this qualification, and we therefore grant the Motion appointing him as hearing officer in this case. As hearing officer in this proceeding, we direct Mr. Melchers to rule on any procedural matters in the case up to the time of the hearing.

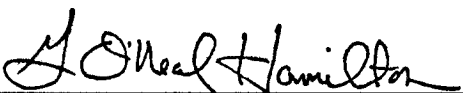
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)